

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Community Affairs Committee Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

2:00 P.M.

Third Floor, City Hall

Present:	Chair:	CW Shanklin
	Vice Chair:	CM Hawkins (Absent)
	Members:	CM Henderson

Also Present: CW Brant Hamilton, CW Woolridge, CW Welch,
CM Heiner and CM Blackwell

CW Shanklin began the meeting by announcing the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Special Items For Discussion:

Maintenance of Vacant Lots and Associated Timeframes for Completion - Ted Pullen, Public Works Department.

Chairwoman Shanklin gave the Committee a handout. **(Attachment)**

Discussion: Ted Pullen, Director of Public Works and Assets, introduced Jeremy Raney, Engineer with Public Works. He stated Greg Hicks is back with Public Works Department and he will be filling Mr. Raney's position. The following was discussed:

❖ **Complaints from Committee and Council Members**

- ✓ High Grass
- ✓ Referrals given seven months ago and have not been taken care of
- ✓ Boarded Property
- ✓ Vacant Lots
- ✓ 1300 Bolling Ave. - Problem with lot for Thirteen years
- ✓ 2301 Dixdale Ave. – referred property 7 months ago
- ✓ Repeated Offenders
- ✓ Rental Property
- ✓ District 5 has the highest vacant properties
 - Have to rely on charities and others to cut the lots
- ✓ Problems with rodents and possums
- ✓ Need to have a different policy in place for Summer
- ✓ Landlord owning 2,000 Properties – City maintains the property
- ✓ Slum Landlords
- ✓ Liens
- ✓ Banks that purchase properties – and don't take care of the property
- ✓ Finding the owners of properties
- ✓ Deceased owners of vacant property
- ✓ Length of time Public Works responds to complaints
- ✓ IPL Referrals
- ✓ Abandon Houses
- ✓ State Roads/Ditches
- ✓ Tall grass around the Gene Snyder
- ✓ New Cut and National Turnpike Roads need to be taken care of
- ✓ Focus on people and where they have to walk and wheel chair people – Walk Ways and Path Ways

- ✓ Need to hire more people and need more equipment
- ✓ Judge waiving the concerns when you go to court
 - Need to know which Judge waives the process
- ✓ How many Public Works crews assigned - Inspection, Permits and License (IPL) referrals

❖ **Ted Pullen Response**

- ✓ Metro lots in the Urban areas - mowed every 30 days
- ✓ Public Works takes care of 482 Metro lots in 20 days with two crews
- ✓ The other crews work on IPL referrals
- ✓ Cannot go on individuals property until it is cited by Inspection, Permits and License
- ✓ Fall and Winter months catch up on high grass
- ✓ November, December and January take care of high brush
- ✓ Summer help – part-time positions
 - Thirteen slots allowed
 - Six teams out in the Summer
 - Six teams out in the Winter
 - Six crews dedicated to vacant lots
 - Cannot take the crews on private property

❖ **Committees suggestions to problems**

- ✓ County Attorney Office is willing to work with Metro Council regarding the problems
- ✓ Dan Klepal, Courier Journal – will write an article
- ✓ Place listing of properties with penalties and not being kept up in the paper with name of Slum Landlord Owners
- ✓ Print out of Liens needs to be public information
- ✓ Have Community meetings or Forums
- ✓ Need for Mr. Pullen to bring the Contracts Committee a solution
 - The Committee wants an immediate solution
 - Need to condemn the property after a certain length of time
- ❖ CW Shanklin has contracts with people to cut lots up to August
 - Have spoke with Brightside for help
 - She want liens placed on the properties and her money given back
- ❖ Budget Hearing – will see what type of funds Public Works need to help solve the problems

Motion to adjourn made by Chairwoman Shanklin, without objection, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 P.M.

***NOTE: Items sent to the Consent Calendar or Old Business will be heard before the full Council at the May 27, 2010 Council Meeting.**

MEM